

PRENTICE COMPUTER CENTRE INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Number 1

February 1987

EDITORIAL

One of my personal objectives for 1987 is to improve communication within our organization, the Prentice Computer Centre. The introduction of this internal newsletter is an attempt to do just that. It has only one underlying concept: "To ensure all staff are informed of all significant (and some insignificant) events and activities, both social and work related, that occur within the Centre."

The newsletter is not intended to be a management document coming from above (or below, depending on your theoretical view of organizational structure), but a document where hopefully everybody will contribute. Editorial responsibility, at least initially, will rest with a two person committee of myself and Alan Langdon (President, PCC Social Club).

Please feel free to contribute any items you consider of interest to other staff members or the Centre as a whole by forwarding them to either Alan or myself.

Geoffrey D.

OUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS A NAME

Your first opportunity to contribute to our newsletter is to submit an entry in our "(News)letterhead Competition", with the winner receiving a bottle of Champagne (it is all I can afford). The following conditions apply.

1. The name Prentice Computer Centre or the initials PCC must be present.
2. The design can occupy no more than the top 8cm of an A4 sheet of paper.
3. The design can include graphic images.
4. The design must be capable of being stored in machine readable form.
5. The design must be printable on any of the PCC printers.
6. Entries must be in the hands of the Editors by 5pm, Monday 2nd March.
7. No correspondence will be entered into.
8. The Editors reserve the right not to award a winner (and drink the Champagne themselves!).

1986 CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party was a great success, with our fighters of crime Batman and Robin once again setting the entertainment standard and providing us with a mental challenge.

Many thanks, once again, to Max and his team for all their effort. I am looking forward to the 1987 Christmas party, tentatively earmarked for the Kenmore Tavern.

1986 Christmas BBQ

Well what a great way to end the year. Great food, plenty to drink and a swimming pool to help fight off the heat. To the many people who contributed - THANKS.

NEW FACES

Welcome to our new staff members and visitors.

Jan Geritz
Mark Williams MKII
George Moyan

Computer operator
Assistant Systems Programmer
Storeman

Mario Bono
Justin Glen
Dino Peterson

IBM representative
IBM representative
IBM representative

Theo Panagopoulos
Alfred Resel
Steven Watkins

work experience - Assoc. Dip. in Computer Electronics
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WELCOME BACK LAURIE

FAREWELL

Our best wishes for the future to those staff who have left or are leaving us.

Vern Bawden	29-1-87
Andrew Broughton	30-1-87
Tony McCall	5-2-87
Ellen Jenkins	13-2-87

LOOKOUT ADVENTURE

We hear Wilber is working on a bestselling PC game. His cryptic clue to the games intent is:
"If it gets off the ground it might well take off."

PERSONAL COMPUTER COURSES

Our PC courses for the University community are now underway with Nick Evans leading the charge. Course room 2 is also being used for other PC courses organized by the University Staff Development Officer and run by Di Reed from the CAL Unit. As a result, Course room 2 will be in heavy use in the future.

TELECOM AND OUR PHONES

A TELECOM "Commander" phone system is currently being installed and eight lines initially will be connected to the unit. In-coming calls on these eight selected lines will be better serviced than currently possible.

TV RECEPTION

At last we have good reception on the TV in the Tea Room for the benefit of our cricket and midday movie fans. The phantom technicians have done another good deed.

QTAC

If you were wondering what all the sighs of relief were at the end of last week, it was because QTAC was over for another year. (I remember the good old days back in 1975 when it all began on the KA-10). Well done to our QTAC team of John Noad, Richard Armstrong, Chris McGovern and Janelle Briggs, and the Operations staff who attended to all the last minute and urgent requests.

WILBER AND THE LIBRARY

If you have any trouble with your PDP-11 software in the next few months you won't be able to call Wilber. He will be working full-time with Jim Douglas (Library) and a representative from DEC investigating the options open to the Library for the upgrade of their hardware and application requirements. The continued growth of the application systems at the Library has placed significant demands on their computing resources and the four PDP-11's running RSX-11M+ don't provide a long term solution. I doubt if there are any PDP-11 sites in the world supporting over 2.5 GBytes of disk capacity.

CHRIS McGOVERN AND PNG

It may be hot and humid in Brisbane but spare a thought for our representative abroad. Chris is currently at the University of Technology at Lae in Papua New Guinea performing the finishing touches to the Student Information System we developed. This contract was sponsored by ADAB (Australian Development Assistance Board) who provide funds for projects to assist developing countries. Chris will be away until 23-2-87.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

Next week (February 9,10,11) the Centre is hosting a workshop on communications, and in particular SPEARNET (South Pacific Education And Research NETwork). SPEARNET is a communications network linking the major tertiary institutions in Australia and New Zealand. Attendees are coming from all the states except NT and WA.

SOME DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING STATISTICS FROM 1986

Terminals under contract maintenance increased from 500 at the beginning of the year to over 550 by years end.

Work done by Small Job Requisitions during 1986 increased by 75% over the figure for 1985 with revenue exceeding \$27000.